

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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WE: L.D. BROWN  
(39) M-701

Memorandum of Conversation

762.00/9-1958

DATE: September 19, 1958

SUBJECT: Germany

PARTICIPANTS: M. Herve Alphand, French Ambassador  
M. Charles Lucet, Counselor, French Embassy  
M. Jean de la Grandville, Counselor, French Embassy

Mr. C. Burke Elbrick, Assistant Secretary, EUR

Mr. Robert H. McBride, WE

Mr. Edward L. Freers, EE

Mr. L. Dean Brown, WE

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The Ambassador said that since the last time he had discussed Germany with Mr. Elbrick the note from the GDR had come up. He wondered if our position should not be that we are always willing to have a four power meeting on Germany leaving aside the question of FRG and GDR participation as the danger would be in having the four withdraw thus leaving the two alone together. We should agree on this, he said, and then tell the FRG our plans. He noted the French Foreign Minister's belief that the FRG is not really too interested or hopeful but feels that something has to be done because of the Bundestag resolution.

Mr. Elbrick said that he thought we should answer the Germans first. We are drafting such a reply and hoped to be able to discuss it soon with the British and French. We would want to take as positive a line as possible.

The Ambassador said that we might have a four power conference on Germany quite aside from a Summit meeting.

Mr. Elbrick replied that this poses an additional problem in that the Soviets are talking more about a peace treaty than reunification. If it was not clear that we would talk only about the whole problem, then a peace treaty discussion might end the prospects for reunification.

The Ambassador said that we do not really seem too far apart. He has had the green light from the Foreign Minister to be positive.

Mr. Elbrick said the theme of the reply would be that we would accept the FRG proposal provided the four power meeting deals with all aspects of the German problem. This would be the basis of our reply to the Soviets.

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